

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 657 passes. LB 838.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to return LB 838 to Select File for specific amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This amendment was one that the body adopted unanimously on Select File to LB 348. It dealt with the option enrollment program. This bill deals with... opens up the sections of the option enrollment program. There is some concern that LB 348 we may not be able to get to. This is an important one for a few families so I wanted to offer it as an amendment to this bill. The Department of Education signed off on it. The Legislature has approved it prior to this. There is no opposition that I am aware of that's been out there. It would state the following. It's on the E & R amendments on LB 348, but it says an option student who subsequently chooses to attend a private or parochial school shall not be required to submit an attendance application and shall be automatically accepted to return to either the resident or option school district upon the completion of the grade levels offered at the private or parochial school. In essence what it amounts to is anyone who chooses to option into a program, you have one option and the laws that we have now if you then change from that option back to the resident district, you cannot choose to option again. You have one option chance and that's it and that's the way it should be. However, there are a few families in the state who have opted to choose into a school district and through whatever reasons have decided to get into...to change and put their child into a parochial or private school. What this amendment simply says is if that student who transfers into an option program, to an option district, then shifts and goes to a private school, they can have...they must complete all of the grades of the parochial or private school that they're attending. And if they complete all of the program, meaning if it's K-8 and there's no other class offered in that school, they can go back to either the original option district that they chose to go to or obviously back to their resident district. If there are, for example, if a student options into a district, goes into a private school, is in the eighth grade and there's a ninth grade there at that school, they must finish...have to go all the way through that program. But if there is no ninth